

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 4, 12, 14, 15, and 17 have been amended. No new matter is submitted.

Claims 4-6, 9 and 12-17 are pending and under consideration.

OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 4, 14, AND 17

Claims 4, 14, and 17 have been amended in view of the Office Action's helpful comments. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103

Claims 4-6, 9, and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Prior Art, based on FIGS. 11-13 of the Background, and Watai, Japanese Patent No. 6-2500182. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

First, it is again noted that the Office Action has indicated that applicants relied upon second slopes being diffused and the differently first slopes being undiffused is apparently not being given substantial patentable weight since "such feature is not critical to the invention as admitted by the applicant in the present specification."

However, it is respectfully submitted that all claim features must be given equal patentable weight and further submitted that applicants have not indicated that the claimed first slope being undiffused and the second slope being diffused is non-critical. Conversely, this particular arrangement is particularly described in the specification as one of the available embodiments.

To further clarify the differences between the claimed invention and both the Office Action proffered combination and Watai modification reasoning, applicants have further clarified the claimed invention to emphasize: a) that the surface of the light emitting side within the light control element is illuminated in the substantially uniform manner; b) that the claimed substantially uniform manner reduces light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional reflection of light by the reflection sheet toward the light control element and secures a desired angle of field of vision of light after emission from the light control element; and c) that the invention is regarding defined directional light emissions, e.g., light reflecting off a defined angle of a reflecting sheet.

Such directional light emissions result in different problems compared to the inherently pre-diffused light source of Watai. In Watai, the side lights direct light outward but that light is not controlled to follow a particular direction out of the guide plate, i.e., the light guide plate merely radiates light in all directions.

Conversely, the system of Prior Art and the claimed invention deal with directional light output from the light guide plate.

Thus, the relied upon Watai is focused on overcoming problems in such an arrangement, and particular to correct for Moire fringe patterns resulting from the non-directional light radiating to the light control element.

Rather, the peaks and their arrangement in the light control element of Watai are particularly necessary because of this non-directional light, i.e., in Watai these peaks help collect non-directional light.

The peaks and their arrangement in the light control element of the presently claimed invention and Prior Art are for redirecting directional light.

The system of Watai and potential corresponding problems resulting from such collection of non-directional light are different from potential corresponding problems resulting from the redirection of directional light.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to merely try to system of Watai in Prior Art to solve problems resident in Prior Art and not resident in Watai.

An obviousness to try rational is only valid when there are limited number of available ways of performing or implementing something. Conversely, here, in Prior Art, there a multitude of ways to modify Prior Art.

Further, for there to be a reason to modify Prior Art, there needs to be some disclosure or need for modifying the same. There must be a reason related to Prior Art.

Rather, the system of Watai is for potentially generating light having a substantially uniform manner to prevent aforementioned lines from occurring from the collection of the non-directional light.

The generation of light in the presently claimed invention is claimed as correcting a different problem, i.e., to reduces light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional reflection of light by the reflection sheet toward the light control element and secure a desired angle of field of vision of light after emission from the light control element.

Rather, these solutions or desires are not discussed or suggested in Watai. Further, there is no evidence in the record that the diffusion system of Watai would accomplish the same.

In addition, regarding the specifically claimed non-diffusing first slopes and diffusing second slopes, the selection of one slope being diffused over another slope in Watai would not appear to have anything to do with controlling a desired field of vision or correcting for the inclined directional reflection of light from the reflection sheet.

In Watai, any diffusing of the light exiting the prism will result in the desired prevention of Moire lines. Here, in Watai, there would appear to be merely a number of different arrangements for diffusing the exit surface of the prism. The selection of one slope over another does not matter.

Conversely, as claimed, with the particularly claimed combination of the second slope being diffused and the first slope being non-diffused, light can be permitted to enter the light control element and maintain along a direction path, for example, or at least with a direction and then be diffused briefly enough to generate light to both still accomplish the viewable semi-directional light while overcoming the specification described drawbacks.

The claimed combination of the non-diffused first slopes and diffused second slopes, within the light control element, accomplish the reducing of light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional reflection of light by the reflection sheet toward the light control element and secures a desired angle of field of vision of light after emission from the light control element.

Thus, the random selection of a diffusion slope in Watai merely for the purpose of diffusing exiting light, would not lead one skilled in the art to take that generic diffusion of an exit slope and now diffuse a slope of Prior art so that light radiating within the light control element is diffused while within the light control element.

Rather, at most, the teaching of Watai would be to merely diffuse some outside surface of the light control element of Prior Art.

Lastly, in addition to and in view of the above, it is further respectfully submitted that the outstanding relied upon reason for modifying Prior Art to include the diffusing slope of Watai within the light control element of Prior Art is improper.

The Office Action's reason for modifying Prior Art, e.g., as stated on page 6, states that it would have been obvious to modify Prior Art to have the single diffusion slope of Watai because if Prior Art were modified as claimed to have the diffusion slope of Watai then the combination would disclose the claimed invention and presumably accomplish the same goals.

However, this is circular. There must be a reason for modifying Prior Art other than such a modification would result in the claimed invention. The reason for the modification cannot be derived after the modification is performed.

For example, the Office Action recites: "[i]t is also noted that while Watai does not clearly state that the formation of the roughened surfaces in the prismatic configuration of the light control plate will reduce the effects of the reflecting member; however, one skilled in the art will recognize that (s)he will apply/make roughed surface(s) on the second slope of each prism which slope causes the light effects of the light reflecting element as a roughed surface for the purpose of eliminating such effects because such use of roughed surface(s) on the second slope of each prism of the prismatic configurations suggested by Watai will make the conventional device described in pages 1-5 and show in figures 11-12 have a structure that is very similar to that of the device as claimed; therefore, it is expected that the combined product will yield the same result, i.e., reduction the effects of the light reflecting plate used in the device."

Again, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* obviousness case requires first that there be a reason for a modification, not that the reason will become apparent after the modification is performed.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

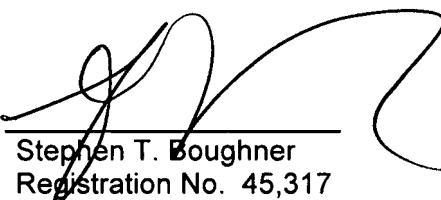
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/30/07

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